

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Detailed Assessment Report 2015-2016 Veterans Upward Bound

As of: 11/21/2016 11:07 AM CENTRAL

(Includes those Action Plans with Budget Amounts marked *One-Time, Recurring, No Request.*)

Mission / Purpose

The mission/purpose of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) program is to provide academic and support services to help prepare eligible veterans to successfully enter Post Secondary Education.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives, with Any Associations and Related Measures, Targets, Findings, and Action Plans

SLO 1: Improve Academic Skills

60% of the participants who completed their VUB educational program during the project year will improve their academic performance as measured by a standardized test taken before and after receiving services from the project.

Related Measures

M 1: TABE test

Each VUB participants will improve their academic skills as measured by the pre and post TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) during one of the three semesters upon entering and exiting the Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) program. Tests will be graded based on a key/master answer sheet as provided by McGraw-Hill. The academic counselor and/or educational counselor will be responsible for the completion of the grading process after pre and post test have been taken. A minimum of (72) seventy-two of the overall VUB participants or 60% of those in academic courses will show improvement on the post TABE test. Will be measured at the beginning (pre-test) and ending (post-test) of each semester for VUB participants tested. TABE will be given upon entrance in August-September for pre-test (Fall) and October-December for post-test. VUB participants will pre-test in January-February (Spring) and post-test in March-May. VUB participants in the summer semester will pre-test during June and post-test in July. Because the veteran population can be transient and is a pre-college adult preparation program, testing will also be ongoing on an individual and as needed basis. Each participant will only take one pre and post test annually. Specific emphasis is on academic improvement via TABE test. However, major focus will be reported on ONLY those who complete the VUB program as it relates to the APR.

Source of Evidence: Faculty pre-test / post-test of knowledge mastery

Target:

60% will improve skills

Finding (2015-2016) - Target: Met

(80%) of the Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) participants, who completed their VUB educational program during the project year improved their academic performance as measured by the Total Adult Basic Education (TABE) test taken before and after receiving services from the project.

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):

Test Methods Improved

In order to pretest a larger percentage of the VUB participants, tests were given immediately after orientation during all three semesters/cycles.

Participants were tested in smaller groups to lessen test anxiety and to offer individual attention when needed. More computer aided instruction was used during the academic classes (English, math, and science) to enhance multiple learning styles.

Established in Cycle: 2009-2010

Implementation Status: In-Progress

Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):

Measure: TABE test | **Outcome/Objective:** Improve Academic Skills

Post Secondary Entrance and Completion

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) plans to partner with the newly funded SSS for Veterans program to better track former VUB participants academic progress and persistence.

Established in Cycle: 2015-2016

Implementation Status: Planned

Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):

Measure: Participants Entering Post-Secondary Education |

Outcome/Objective: Post-Secondary Enrollment

Measure: Retention and Evaluation | **Outcome/Objective:** Educational Program Retention and Completion

Measure: TABE test | **Outcome/Objective:** Improve Academic Skills

Implementation Description: VUB participants who qualify to enter PSE at UL Lafayette will be referred to the SSS for Veterans program. This will allow for a continuation of academic and support services to veteran participants.

Projected Completion Date: 07/2016

Responsible Person/Group: VUB Staff and VUB Project Administrator

Additional Resources: MOU with VUB and SSS for Veterans, Veteran participants agreement for shared information.

SLO 2: Educational Program Retention and Completion

60% of participants served during the project year will complete their VUB educational program of participants served during the project year or remain enrolled in the program..

Related Measures

M 2: Retention and Evaluation

Participants will improve in the area of retention as measured by increased class attendance, improvements in midterm and end of semester grades, the completion of two advising sessions yearly, and attendance to at least one outside classroom activity as assigned by instructors. Benchmarks will also be a part of the Individualized Education Action Plan (IEAP) located in each student's file in the VUB office. The class roster, midterm and end of semester evaluation forms, at least one completed counseling form will serve as documentation. At least (60%) of the VUB participants will be retained in the program or complete program requirements. Veteran participants will be measured at the midterm (October, March, and early July) and end of each semester (December, May, and early August) based on attendance, test, and projects. Report cards will be given at the completion of the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Each participant will receive a grade at midterm and at end of each semester with specific emphasis on academic improvement via subject and course material taught during the (fall, spring, and summer) semesters/cycles. Grades will be given each

semester/cycle to participants who continue in VUB and for those who reach their IEAP objectives prior to the end of the academic year.

Source of Evidence: Benchmarking

Target:

60% will complete the VUB program or remained enrolled.

Finding (2015-2016) - Target: Met

(73%) of the Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) participants served during the project year completed their VUB educational program by the end of the project year or remained enrolled in the program.

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):

Improvements in Instruction Methods

VUB participants are given opportunities to receive more didactic techniques with the use of Computer Aided Instruction (C.A.I). Visual aids, video, and other multiple instructional approaches, which are based on the personal interest of veteran participants is used in all academic courses. All VUB classes are now offered in F.G. Mouton, which gives the instructors and participants in all seven (7) courses access to computer labs and cutting-edge technology. Several innovative and best practices are also used to enhance instructional methods

Established in Cycle: 2009-2010

Implementation Status: In-Progress

Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):

Measure: Retention and Evaluation | **Outcome/Objective:** Educational Program Retention and Completion

Post Secondary Entrance and Completion

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) plans to partner with the newly funded SSS for Veterans program to better track former VUB participants academic progress and persistence.

Established in Cycle: 2015-2016

Implementation Status: Planned

Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):

Measure: Participants Entering Post-Secondary Education |

Outcome/Objective: Post-Secondary Enrollment

Measure: Retention and Evaluation | **Outcome/Objective:**

Educational Program Retention and Completion

Measure: TABE test | **Outcome/Objective:** Improve

Academic Skills

Implementation Description: VUB participants who qualify to enter PSE at UL Lafayette will be referred to the SSS for Veterans program. This will allow for a continuation of academic and support services to veteran participants.

Projected Completion Date: 07/2016

Responsible Person/Group: VUB Staff and VUB Project Administrator

Additional Resources: MOU with VUB and SSS for Veterans, Veteran participants agreement for shared information.

SLO 3: Post-Secondary Enrollment

30% of participants who completed their prescribed VUB educational program in the project year will enroll in a program of post-secondary education by the end of the next project year.

Related Measures

M 3: Participants Entering Post-Secondary Education

Participants will enter a program of Post Secondary Education (PSE), which is defined as vocational or technical school, community college/university, or a certificate program, etc. The number of VUB participants who complete the program by August 31 will determine the amount of participants eligible to enter PSE. Completion is defined as VUB participants eligible to enter PSE based on IEAP, course completion and/or counseling, evaluations completed by counselors and the administrative coordinator. Successful enrollment will be measured during the fall, spring, and summer with an evaluation of VUB program objectives and other measures such as graduation from VUB, completion of their IEAP, and successful acceptance into a PSE. Each participant who completes his or her VUB program and prescribed IEAP will be annually evaluated for entrance into a program of PSE by the Fall of the following academic year. This will be validated through National Clearing House, Banner/ISIS, letters from VUB participants' schools of acceptance, etc.

Source of Evidence: Activity volume

Target:

30% will enroll in a post-secondary education program.

Finding (2015-2016) - Target: Met

(42%) of the Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) participants, who completed their prescribed VUB educational program in the project year enrolled in a program of post-secondary education by the end of the next project year.

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):

Individual Counseling Sessions

VUB participants who complete both the required studies and their IEAP will have individual counseling sessions with at least one VUB counselor to prepare PSE applications, career focus, financial aid applications (Pell grants, loans, and scholarships) and other specific PSE enrollment requirements, as needed.

Established in Cycle: 2009-2010

Implementation Status: In-Progress

Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):

Measure: Participants Entering Post-Secondary Education |

Outcome/Objective: Post-Secondary Enrollment

Post Secondary Entrance and Completion

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) plans to partner with the newly funded SSS for Veterans program to better track former VUB participants academic progress and persistence.

Established in Cycle: 2015-2016

Implementation Status: Planned

Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):

Measure: Participants Entering Post-Secondary Education |

Outcome/Objective: Post-Secondary Enrollment

Measure: Retention and Evaluation | **Outcome/Objective:** Educational Program Retention and Completion

Measure: TABE test | **Outcome/Objective:** Improve Academic Skills

Implementation Description: VUB participants who qualify to enter PSE at UL Lafayette will be referred to the SSS for Veterans program. This will allow for a continuation of academic and support services to veteran participants.

Projected Completion Date: 07/2016

Responsible Person/Group: VUB Staff and VUB Project Administrator

Additional Resources: MOU with VUB and SSS for Veterans, Veteran participants agreement for shared information.

Analysis Questions and Analysis Answers

How were assessment results shared and evaluated within the unit?

The TABE assessment results were shared and evaluated at staff meetings after post submission of Annual Performance Report (APR). They were also discussed with the TRIO Director. Additionally, results were evaluated based on TABE (PRE and POST) scores to address the following:

- a. Academic areas within the Reading and math sections that were challenging for a majority of veterans
- b. Identifying VUB participants who earned mastery for possible transition into a program of PSE.
- c. Discussions/research about possible new TABE testing methods via computer based assessment.

Identify which action plans [created in prior cycle(s)] were implemented in this current cycle. For each of these implemented plans, were there any measurable or perceivable effects? How, if at all, did the findings appear to be affected by the implemented action plan?

Action plans from prior cycles that were implemented include but or not limited to the following:

- a. Individual testing periods for veterans who request it.
- b. Partial testing with later completion times as needed.

No measurable effects have been noted but perceivable effects include higher completion rates of the TABE and less test stress on VUB participants.

The results were positive and continue to be monitored.

What has the unit learned from the current assessment cycle? What is working well, and what is working less well in achieving desired outcomes?

Lessons learned from the current assessment cycle include the need to move towards computer based testing to grant an option to VUB participants as it relates to TABE. TABE completion after orientation is working well. However, the VUB staff have noticed for some time that VUB participants appear to view TABE as a pass or a fail exam. This causes some hesitations for VUB participants as it relates to TABE completion.